

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 8, 10 and 11, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet material identifying apparatus for identifying the kind of a sheet material, comprising:

an adjusting assembly for dehumidifying or humidifying a predetermined region of the sheet material and adjusting the moisture content of the predetermined region;

an external force applying ~~means~~ unit for applying an external force to the predetermined region of the sheet material whose moisture content is adjusted; and

a detecting ~~means~~ unit for detecting the external force propagated through the sheet while the external force is applied by the external force applying unit ~~means~~; and

an identifying unit which uses a detection result of the detection unit ~~means~~ for identifying the kind of a sheet material ~~in accordance with a detected result of~~ ~~[[by]]~~ the detecting ~~means~~.

2. (Original) The sheet material identifying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the adjusting assembly is a heating mechanism.

3. (Original) The sheet material identifying apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the heating mechanism is a fixing device in an electronic photographing apparatus.

4. (Original) The sheet material identifying apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein

the heating mechanism is a transfer assembly in a heat transfer printer.

5. (Original) The sheet material identifying apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein

the adjusting assembly is a humidifying mechanism.

6. (Previously Presented) The sheet material identifying apparatus according to
claim 5, wherein

the humidifying mechanism is an ink discharging mechanism in an ink jet printer.

7. (Currently Amended) The sheet material identifying apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein

the identifying ~~means~~ unit identifies the kind of the sheet material by comparing the
external force detected by the detecting ~~means~~ unit with a table previously storing the external
forces and the kinds of sheet materials corresponding to the external forces.

8. (Currently Amended) The sheet material identifying apparatus according to
claim 1, which further comprises

a moisture content detecting ~~means~~ unit for detecting the moisture content of the sheet
material, wherein the moisture content detecting ~~means~~ unit controls the adjusting assembly so as

to adjust the moisture content of the predetermined region of the sheet material in accordance with a moisture content detection result by the moisture content detecting unit means.

9. (Original) The sheet material identifying apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein

the external force to be applied to the predetermined region by the external force applying means is an impact force or vibration.

10. (Currently Amended) A sheet material treating apparatus comprising the sheet material identifying apparatus of claim 1, wherein

[[a]] sheet treatment parameters are set using information about ~~is treated in accordance with~~ the kind of the sheet material identified by the sheet material identifying apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) A sheet material identifying method for identifying the kind of a sheet material, comprising:

a moisture content adjusting step of dehumidifying or humidifying a predetermined region of the sheet material to adjust the moisture content of the predetermined region;

an external force applying step of applying an external force to the predetermined region of the sheet material whose moisture content is adjusted by an external force applying means;

an external force detecting step of detecting the applied external force propagated through the sheet after the external force is applied by the external force applying means; and

an identifying step which uses a detection result of the detecting step to identify of identifying the kind of a sheet material ~~in accordance with the detected external force detected in the external force detecting step~~ after the moisture content of the predetermined region is controlled so as to be kept in a predetermined range.